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## **INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

For insuring compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure under 37 CFR § 1.56, the undersigned hereby submits the documents listed on the attached Form PTO-1449 for consideration by the Examiner in charge of the above-identified patent application.

The listing of these materials is not to be construed as an admission that such is actually prior art with respect to the invention of the present application and is not to be construed that such is material with respect to the present invention.

[ ] U.S. patent applications which the applicant considers to be related to the above-identified application are as follows:

[xx] The relevance of the non-English language references is indicated on the attached English-language abstracts.

[ ] The relevance of the references is indicated on the enclosed copy of the \_\_\_\_ Search Report for the priority application.

These documents are being submitted (check only one of the next four boxes):

- ☒ within three months of the filing of the above U.S. national application or of the date of entry of the U.S. national stage in an International Patent Application (no fee is due);
- ☐ before receiving a first Office Action on the merits of the above-identified patent application (no fee is due);
- ☐ following receipt of a first Office Action, but before issuance of a Final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance (if this box is checked, the fee box below OR one of the last two boxes must be checked);

OR

- ☐ following receipt of a Notice of Allowance or a Final Office Action (if this box is checked, the next box and one of the last two boxes also must be checked).

FEE

- ☐ Our Check in the amount of \$180.00 is attached in payment of the fee set forth in 37 CFR § 1.17(p).

CERTIFICATION

- ☐ The undersigned certifies that each item of this information is being submitted within three months of the date it was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application.
- ☐ The undersigned certifies that no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and, to the knowledge of the undersigned, after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the information disclosure statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement.

The Director is hereby authorized to charge payment of any deficiency in the above fee(s) or to charge any additional fees required under 37 CFR § 1.16 or 1.17 or credit any

overpayment to Deposit Account No. 22-0185. A duplicate copy of this authorization is attached for the Finance Branch.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date:

*8/28/01*